

BROOK TROUT, BULL TROUT OR DOLLY VARDEN ?

Why you should care.

Bull trout and Dolly Varden are native to Washington waters and are listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. Brook trout are not native to Washington and can negatively impact bull trout and Dolly Varden. All three species look very much alike and often live in the same waters. Brook trout may be harvested in most waters, but bull trout/Dolly Varden harvest is limited to a few select waters (see special rules for details). Here's how to tell them apart.

Brook Trout



Dolly Varden/Bull Trout



The dorsal fin is the key to telling them apart. If the dorsal fin has black spots or "worm tracks," it's a brook trout. If the dorsal fin is clear or olive colored, with no distinct spots, it's a bull trout or Dolly Varden.

So remember, in waters that are closed to harvest of bull trout:

No black, put it back!

Statewide Freshwater Rules

Using Freshwater Rules

1 Read:

The Statewide Freshwater Rules and Statewide Freshwater Species Rules. Determine seasons and general rules applying to game fish or food fish for which you intend to fish. Remember to check for emergency rules. These changes can be found by contacting the WDFW Fishing Hotline, statewide customer service and are also available on the WDFW website.

2 Choose:

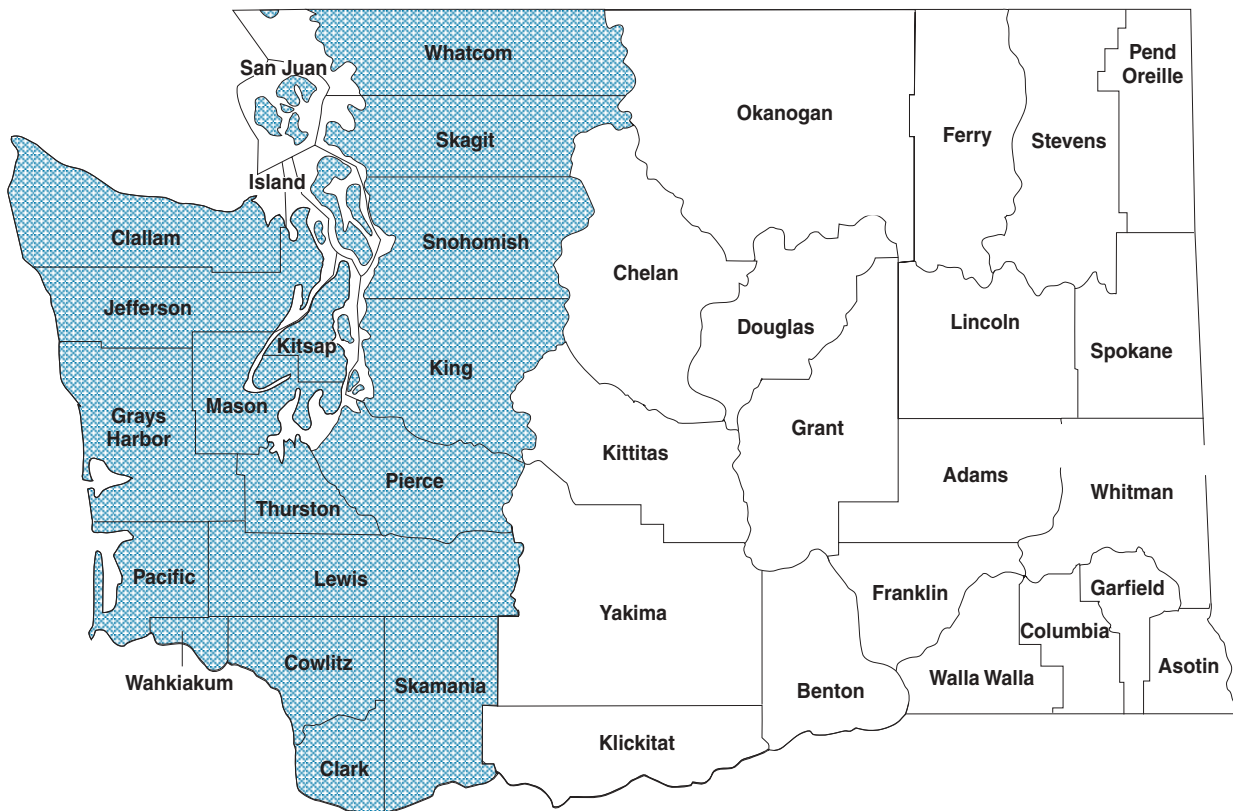
The location you are going to fish and check that area for Special Rule listings. Special Rules are divided into four areas: Westside Rivers, Westside Lakes, Eastside Rivers and Eastside Lakes. RIVERS lists rivers, streams and beaver ponds. LAKES lists lakes, ponds, and reservoirs. For the purposes of this pamphlet, all sections of the COLUMBIA AND SNAKE RIVERS are rivers (not reservoirs) and any special rules that apply are listed in the Eastside Rivers section. See map below for additional information.

3 If your area is listed in a Special Rules section:

Read Special Rules Instructions on bottom of page 20. If your area is NOT listed in the Special Rules (pages 25-87) then all the Statewide Rules apply.

4 The following terms are used frequently in the Special Rules:

Catch-and-release, Chumming, Daily Limit, Fly Fishing Only, Juvenile Only, Landlocked Salmon Rules, Length, Maximum Size, Minimum Size, Night Closure, Non-Buoyant Lure Restriction, Selective Gear Rules, Release wild Steelhead, Release wild Chinook, Release wild Coho or Release wild Cutthroat. Definitions can be found on pages 14-16.



Westside

Eastside

Statewide Freshwater Rules

Tackle

Hook and line angling only. Barbed or barbless hooks may be used, and a hook may be single, double, or treble, but not more than one line with up to three hooks per angler may be used.

Single barbless hooks are required in areas designated as "fly fishing only" or "selective gear rules," and while fishing for STURGEON.

All fishing gear must be kept in immediate control and may not be left unattended while fishing. Rodholders may be used but the rod must be easily removed without delay; rod may be left in holder while playing the fish. Downriggers may be used if the line releases from the downrigger while playing and landing the fish.

A club or dipnet may be used to assist landing a legal fish taken by legal gear. A gaff hook may not be used.

It is unlawful to chum or broadcast any substance to attract game fish, unless specifically authorized by the Special Rules.

Where use of bait is prohibited, or where lures or flies are used voluntarily, game fish may be caught and released until the daily limit is retained. If any fish has swallowed the hook or is hooked in the gill, eye, or tongue, it should be kept if legal to do so.

See Shellfish/Seaweed section for CRAWFISH rules.

Seasons

The following rules and seasons apply unless listed otherwise in the Special Rules. Freshwater areas are open 24 hours per day when open.

LAKES, PONDS AND RESERVOIRS are open to fishing for game fish (except Dolly Varden/Bull Trout and grass carp) YEAR-ROUND.

RIVERS, STREAMS AND BEAVER PONDS are open to fishing for GAME FISH (except Dolly Varden/Bull Trout and grass carp) JUNE 1- OCTOBER 31.

ALL FRESHWATER AREAS are CLOSED to fishing for SALMON, Dolly Varden/Bull Trout and GRASS CARP unless listed as open in Special Rules. Fishing for COMMON CARP, STURGEON, SHAD, or SMELT (unless specifically noted in Special Rules) is open only during open game fish or salmon seasons.

Sturgeon

Catch Record Cards are required statewide. **Annual STURGEON limit is 10 fish even if the angler holds both a Washington and Oregon license.** In Columbia River waters forming the boundary between Washington and Oregon, STURGEON anglers may continue to fish (catch-and-release) after a daily or yearly limit has been retained.

Single barbless hooks and bait are required to fish for STURGEON. In the field, eggs must be retained with intact carcass of fish from which they came. **STURGEON fishing is not allowed at night.**

Any STURGEON not to be retained must be released immediately. Oversized STURGEON cannot be removed totally or in part from the water.

TAGGED STURGEON: Do not remove tags from fish not of legal size or that will not be retained, but record: tag number and color, date and location of catch, fish length, your name and address. If fish is retained, remove tag and send with above information to WDFW Vancouver office.

Wild STEELHEAD, DOLLY VARDEN/BULL TROUT, and SALMON may only be kept where specifically authorized in the Special Rules.

"Open Listings"

An "open" listing does not authorize anglers to trespass on private property (which often includes the bed of the stream) or reservation lands. Please respect private property and reservation boundaries by contacting the land owner before entering reservation lands or waters.

Special Rules Instructions

The Special Rules (pages 25-87) list freshwater areas where the Statewide Freshwater Rules and the Statewide Freshwater Species Rules have been modified.

Unless listed in the Special Rules, all Statewide Rules remain in effect.

For All Game Fish and SALMON the Special Rules show all of the fishing opportunities for each freshwater area listed.



EULACHON (Columbia River smelt) may not be retained in the Columbia River or its tributaries unless authorized by emergency rule.

The terms "**All Game Fish**" and "**Other Game Fish**" include the Game Fish species on definitions pages, except Dolly Varden/Bull Trout and GRASS CARP.

The term TROUT includes: STEELHEAD, BROWN, CUTTHROAT, RAINBOW, LAKE, GOLDEN and EASTERN BROOK TROUT; GRAYLING; KOKANEE; LANDLOCKED ATLANTIC, COHO, AND CHINOOK SALMON.

County references after lakes or streams are there to make it easier to locate the waters listed, or to differentiate between two places with the same name. They do not mean that the rules apply only to the portion of water in that county.

References in the Special Rules to "motors prohibited" mean fishing from a floating device equipped with a motor is prohibited. "Internal combustion engines prohibited" means fishing from a floating device equipped with an internal combustion engine is prohibited. "Equipped with" means the motor is attached to the floating device, regardless of whether the motor

is in the water.

In the Special Rules, all seasons for named lakes in Grant and Adams counties apply to inlet and outlet streams. In Grant, Adams, Franklin, Okanogan and Douglas counties, you may fish up to the base of all man-made dams or other obstructions (in listed and unlisted areas), except Zosel Dam. Benton County rivers, streams and beaver ponds are open year-round.



Lakes with this icon have lake access areas, which usually, but not always, include a boat ramp.

For SMELT, COMMON CARP, SHAD and STURGEON, the Statewide Freshwater Species Rules apply unless one of these four species is listed in the Special Rules.

Statewide Freshwater Species Rules

Game Fish

Possession Limit for Game Fish is 2 Daily Limits in any form.

SPECIES	ADDITIONAL RULES
BASS (See DOH advisory, page 22)	No min. size. Daily limit 5. Only BASS less than 12" or greater than 17" may be retained. No more than 1 over 17" may be retained. Bass may be caught, retained, and released alive from a livewell until a daily limit is in possession.
TIGER MUSKELLUNGE (MUSKY)	Min. size 36". Daily limit 1.
WALLEYE	Min. size 16". Daily limit 5. No more than 1 over 22" may be retained. WALLEYE may be caught, retained, and released alive from a livewell until daily limit is in possession.
WHITEFISH	No min. size. Daily limit 15.
BURBOT (FRESHWATER LING)	No min. size. Daily limit 5. Set lines with not more than 5 hooks may be used where listed in the Special Rules. Set lines must be clearly identified with the angler's name and address.
CHANNEL CATFISH	No min. size. Daily limit 5.
CRAPPIE, NORTHERN PIKE, NORTHERN PIKEMINNOW, PEAMOUTH CHUB, PERCH, SUCKERS, SUNFISH, CATFISH (except CHANNEL), BULLFROGS	No min. size. No daily limit. BULLFROGS must be taken by angling, hand-dip netting, spearing (gigging) or with bow-and-arrow (no license required).
GRASS CARP	CLOSED.
TROUT: The combined daily limit for an angler that fishes in both rivers and lakes on the same day is 5 TROUT. In the combined daily limit, only 2 TROUT may be from rivers, except as provided for EASTERN BROOK TROUT.	
BROWN TROUT RAINBOW TROUT GOLDEN TROUT GRAYLING CUTTHROAT TROUT LAKE TROUT KOKANEE LANDLOCKED ATLANTIC, CHINOOK, AND COHO SALMON.	In rivers, streams & beaver ponds: Min. size 8". Daily limit 2. When fishing with bait, all TROUT (except STEELHEAD) equal to or greater than the minimum size are counted as part of the daily limit whether kept or released. In lakes, ponds, & reservoirs: No min. size. Daily limit 5. When fishing with bait, all TROUT (except STEELHEAD) equal to or greater than the minimum size are counted as part of the daily limit whether kept or released.
EASTERN BROOK TROUT	In rivers: No min. size. Daily limit 5. Anglers may keep up to 5 EASTERN BROOK TROUT, but no more than 5 TROUT total, and no more than 2 can be other TROUT species.
STEELHEAD	Min. size 20". Daily limit 2. No more than 2 STEELHEAD may be retained as part of TROUT combined daily limit. Where wild STEELHEAD are listed as open in the Special Rules, no more than 1 wild STEELHEAD may be retained per day. Annual limit 30 STEELHEAD of which no more than 5 may be wild STEELHEAD. STEELHEAD may be caught and released until the daily limit is retained.
DOLLY VARDEN/BULL TROUT	When listed as open under the special rules, count as part of the TROUT combined daily limit for rivers and lakes.

Release of wild STEELHEAD and Dolly Varden/Bull Trout is required year-round in freshwater areas, unless specifically exempted in the Special Rules.

Food Fish

SPECIES	ADDITIONAL RULES/POSSESSION LIMIT
COMMON CARP, SHAD	No min. size. No daily limit. No possession limit. COMMON CARP may also be taken by spear or bow-and-arrow.
SALMON (Anglers may not continue to fish for SALMON after the adult portion of the daily limit has been retained.)	Possession limit - 2 daily limits in fresh form. An additional 40 pounds of SALMON may be possessed in frozen or processed form. ATLANTIC SALMON may be retained during any open trout or salmon fishery. There is no size limit or daily limit for ATLANTIC SALMON.
EULACHON (Columbia River Smelt)	CLOSED - Columbia River and tributaries.
OTHER SMELT and EULACHON outside the Columbia River system	No min. size. Daily limit 10 lbs. all species combined. Note: Daily limit is 10 lbs. in the aggregate with herring, sardines, sandlance and anchovies. Possession limit - 1 daily limit in fresh form. Additional SMELT may be possessed in a frozen or processed form. All SMELT caught must be kept and count toward the daily limit. SMELT may be taken by dip net.
STURGEON See the Special Rules for waters upstream of Bonneville Dam.	Min. size 42". Max. size 60". Daily limit 1. Possession limit - 2 daily limits. Annual limit 10.

Unless otherwise listed under the Special Rules sections, Statewide Freshwater Species Rules apply.

Eat Fish? Read This! Advice from the Washington Department of Health on Eating Fish



Statewide Bass Advisory: Women of childbearing age and children under 6 should consume **NO more than 2 meals of bass per month.** This is based on information from a recent study of 20 lakes and rivers in Washington State. Smallmouth and largemouth bass had elevated levels of mercury in the majority of these lakes and rivers. Although this level of mercury is about half the national average, it is enough to raise a health concern.



Statewide Fish Consumption Advisory for Mercury: Women of childbearing age and children under six should not eat any shark, swordfish, tilefish, king mackerel or either fresh or frozen tuna steak, because of high levels of mercury. Women and children should also limit the amount of **canned tuna** they eat:

- Women of child-bearing years 6 ounces per week (1 can per week)
- Child under age 6: who weighs 20 lbs. 1 ounce per week (1 tablespoon per week or 1/6th can per week)
- who weighs 60 lbs. 3 ounces per week (1/2 can per week)



But... Keep Eating Fish! Fish is good for you. It is a great source of low-fat protein. It has been linked to reduced risks of coronary artery disease and high blood pressure. WISELY choose the type of fish and the amount you eat. While eating fish regularly is encouraged by the Department of Health (DOH), certain locally caught fish from some state waterbodies may contain high levels of toxic chemicals. To protect you and your family's health, DOH and county health departments have issued fish consumption advisories for areas and species of concern. For advisories on specific bodies of water in Washington State see the table below:

Fish Advisory and Consumption Recommendation Chart

Body of Water/Location	Species	Women of child bearing age	Children<6 years	General Population
Lake Roosevelt/ NE Tri Counties	Walleye All Fish	2 meals/month All Groups: 20 meals/month	1 child meal/month	No restriction
Lake Whatcom/ Whatcom Co.	Smallmouth bass Yellow perch	No consumption 1 meal/month	No consumption 1 meal/month	No restriction No restriction
Budd Inlet/ Thurston Co.	Shellfish	All Groups: No consumption		
Commencement Bay/ Pierce Co.	Bottomfish, shellfish, crab	All Groups: No consumption All Groups: No consumption		
Duwamish River/ King Co.	Shiner perch, flounder, English sole, rockfish Shellfish Crab	All Groups: 1 meal/month NO FISH LIVERS All Groups: 1 meal/month NO FISH LIVERS All Groups: No consumption All Groups: Do not eat the wet gooey insides (hepatopancreas)		
Dyes Inlet/ Bremerton/ Kitsap Co.	Shellfish, bottomfish, crab	All Groups: No consumption		
Eagle Harbor/ Bremerton / Kitsap Co.	Shellfish, bottomfish, crab	All Groups: No consumption		
Indian Island/ Jefferson Co. Manchester State Park/ Kitsap Co.	Shellfish Shellfish	All Groups: No consumption All Groups: No consumption		
Puget Sound/ King Co.	Bottomfish, shellfish, crab, seaweed	All Groups: No consumption All Groups: No consumption		
Sinclair Inlet/ Bremerton/ Kitsap Co.	Bottomfish, crab, rockfish	All Groups: No consumption		
Spokane River/ Spokane Co.	Rainbow trout Mountain whitefish Largescale sucker	Above Upriver dam: no consumption; Below dam to 9 mi dam: 1 meal/month Above Upriver dam: no consumption; Below dam to 9 mi dam: 1 meal/ every other month All Groups: 1 meal/ month		
Yakima River/ Yakima Co.	Mountain whitefish, carp, bottomfish, bridgelp sucker	All Groups: 4 meals/month All Groups: 4 meals/month		

Note: An adult meal size is 8 ounces; a child's meal is assumed to be smaller, based on body size.

Additional Information: Anglers are encouraged to contact DOH or your local health department for updated advisories, information on health effects, and fish cleaning and cooking methods to reduce exposure to some contaminants. **Call DOH toll-free at 877-485-7316** or visit the DOH website at www.doh.wa.gov/fishing/.

Department of Health Shellfish/Seaweed Advisory

Shellfish or seaweed may be contaminated from exposure to bacteria, biotoxins, viruses, or chemicals. Consumption of contaminated shellfish or seaweed can pose a health risk to humans. One potential biotoxin is Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning (PSP) also called "red tide." PSP becomes a problem when clams, oysters, scallops, mussels, or other shellfish consume and concentrate a microscopic algae which contains a potentially lethal biotoxin. Symptoms include numbness of the tongue and lips, and tingling in the extremities and fingertips. This may be followed by loss of muscular control and difficulty in breathing. Amnesic Shellfish Poisoning (ASP) results when shellfish concentrate a different biotoxin called domoic acid. Symptoms of ASP include abdominal cramps, diarrhea, vomiting, disorientation, dizziness, and memory loss. If any of these symptoms occur after eating shellfish, get immediate medical attention.

Marine Toxin Levels can change rapidly: Contact the Department of Health Marine Biotoxin Hotline 1-800-562-5632 or check the Internet www.doh.wa.gov/ehp/sf/biotoxin.htm. Do not harvest in areas listed as closed on the Biotoxin Hotline, also avoid taking other shellfish which eat clams (such as moon snails or hairy tritons).

Selected Washington Game Fish



Rainbow Trout

Body color is variable and may be silvery in lakes and reservoirs. It has a red to pink streak on its side and irregular spotting. There are no teeth on the back of the tongue.



Cutthroat Trout

Body color is variable. The maxillary (upper jaw bone) usually extends beyond the margin of the eye. The hyoid teeth are behind the tongue. There may be a red or orange slash on the underside of the jaw. Spotting is more closely grouped toward the tail. Sea-run coastal cutthroat return in fall after one year in an estuary.



Golden Trout

Coloration is brilliant and distinct with a green back and gold-toned sides. There are a few spots below mid-point of the body and white tips on the dorsal, anal and pelvic fins. Parr marks show on the side of the body.



Lake Trout (Mackinaw)

Dark gray or gray green above with a light gray to white belly. Colored spots are absent, fins have small white borders, and the tail is forked. It inhabits large, deep lakes.



Kokanee (Silver Trout)

Its back is greenish blue to silver with faint speckling. The sides and belly are silvery with no distinct spotting. When kokanee spawn in fall, their sides turn red to scarlet. The inside of the mouth is white, not black as in some salmon.



Steelhead (Female)

Steelhead are ocean-run rainbow which run in both summer and winter seasons, returning after one to three years at sea.



Brown Trout

This trout's back is brown or olive with large spots. Sides are light brown to yellowish with large dark spots surrounded by halos of blue-gray. The tail has few spots.



Brook Trout

Dark green or blue with white belly, its upper body and dorsal fin have wormlike markings. Its sides have yellow and pink spots with blue rings. The lower fins are white-tipped and the tail is square.



Dolly Varden/Bull Trout

This fish is olive green to brown above and on the sides with no wormlike markings. There are cream or crimson spots. The tail is slightly forked. Dolly Varden are a sea-run version, more silvery in color, and spend one year in an estuary. Bull trout are found in Eastern and Western Washington, usually in larger reservoirs.



Whitefish

Coloration is light grayish-blue on black with silvery sides and a dull, whitish belly. It has large scales, and a small mouth without teeth.

Selected Washington Game Fish



Largemouth Bass

This bass is dark green on the back and sides, with a dark, horizontal band along its sides. The belly is white. The large jaw, when closed, extends behind the eye.



Smallmouth Bass

This bass is dark olive to brown on the back, with a white belly. The sides are bronze and have dark vertical bands. The small jaw does not extend behind the eyes.



Bluegill

The bluegill is olive green to bluish with a blue and orange lower body. It has vertical bars on each side and solid black gill opercular lobes.



Walleye

Coloration is black to brown on a whitish background. The lower portion of the tail fin is also whitish. It has a dark spot on the first dorsal fin, but no strong cross bars on the sides. The teeth are elongated.



Yellow Perch

This perch has a greenish to yellow body, a white belly, and vertical dark crossbars on each side. There are no prominent teeth.



Crappie

The body is silvery, with dark spots. The fins have dark bands. White crappie may have vertical bars on the sides.



Bullhead

The body is darkish-black to brown. Its head is not as flat as a channel catfish. The cat-like barbels on its mouth are brown or yellow. The skin has no scales, there are no spots on the side, and the tail is not forked.



Channel Catfish

The body goes from blackish to silvery to white on the sides. There may be some small irregular spots on the sides. Its skin lacks scales. It has cat-like black barbels on the mouth and jaw, a flat head and forked tail.

FISH CHARTS

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